



Bureau of Land Management

Utah
News

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLM Hosts Vegetation Restoration Forum August 18 & 19

KANAB, Utah -- What does “restoration” mean when talking about public lands? Why do restoration? How do you decide where and when to do restoration? How do you actually do restoration? These four seemingly simple questions are the focus of a two-day Southern Utah Vegetation Restoration Forum being held August 18 and 19, 2015 in Kanab, Utah. The public is invited to attend this free event.

Restoration is returning disturbed areas to a natural array of native plant and animal associations. This may sound easy, but in practice, restoration to a pre-disturbance condition is often very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. Restoration is more than just returning vegetation to a site; it is also the return of the entire ecosystem, including soil characteristics, water relations, associated wildlife and non-dominate plants. The “What,” “Why,” “When” and “How” might that be achieved will be at the center of discussion.

Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the forum is broken down into two parts: a panel discussion on restoration starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, at the Kanab City Library, 374 North Main Street; and a field trip to look at restoration sites on Wednesday, August 19, leaving from the Kanab BLM Headquarters Building, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, at 8:45 a.m.

Participants in the August 19 panel include Hal Gordon, Economist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Shane Green, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS; Mary O’Brien, Utah Forests Program Director, Grand Canyon Trust; Adrienne Pilmanis, Botanist, BLM; Karen Prentice, Healthy Lands Initiative Coordinator, BLM; Bruce Roundy, Plant and Wildlife Sciences Faculty, Brigham Young University; and Jason Vernon, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. In four separate sessions, they will look at: What is vegetation restoration; why do vegetation restoration; how should restoration efforts be prioritized; and what restoration methodologies are most suited to Southern Utah. At the end of each session, the public will be invited to ask questions of the panelists.

The panel discussion will be recorded and available electronically shortly after the forum concludes.

Wednesday's field trip will take panel members and interested members of the public out to look at actual restoration sites – the Five Mile Sagebrush Restoration Project; restoration work along Skutumpah Road and Thompson Creek; and along the Coal Road to look at five different years of restoration efforts. Participants should bring their own transportation – high-clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended; dress for hot weather and consider the need for a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen; and bring water and a brown bag lunch.

To sign up for the forum discussion, the field trip or both, go to:
<http://restorationforum.eventbrite.com/> and register. A link to the registration site is also available from our website at: <http://blm.gov/pgld>.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. These public lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

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